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AMUSEMENTS.

McVicker's Theatre. Madison street, between Dearborn and State. "H. M. S. Piffards." Afternoon and Evening.

Harvey's Theatre. Dearborn street, corner of Monroe. Engagement of John McCullough. Afternoon, "Virginia." Evening, "Camille."

Hamlin's Theatre. Clark street, opposite the County-House. Engagement of Milton Hobbs. "The Phoenix," and "Man of the People."

McCormick Hall. North Clark street, corner Kinzie. Dissolving Panorama. Views. Afternoon, Tour Through Paris. Evening, Life of Christ and Palestine.

Academy of Music. Huron street, between Madison and Monroe. Variety entertainment.

SOCIETY MEETINGS.

ST. JOHN'S CONCLAVE, NO. 1, K. R. C. R., and K. R. H. S.—Attention, St. Knights! Please be at the hall, 10 Monroe-st., for the election of officers and payment of dues. It is earnestly hoped that all will be present.

J. F. REYNOLDS, M. D., M. P. Sovereign.

J. J. FRENCH, M. D., Recorder.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1879.

The merchants, manufacturers, and business men of Chicago should lose no time in providing for so much of a cessation of business next Tuesday as will allow all of their employees to vote without forfeiting any part of their wages. In this way a full vote can be assured, and it only needs a full vote to render Mr. Wexner's election certain by several thousand majority. There never was a time when it was more important that every Republican vote be polled, and a general suspension of business long enough to admit of all the votes coming out will be a good investment for the employers.

An evidence of the interest taken by the Germans in the coming city election was afforded by the large attendance at Aurora Turner-Hall last evening at the Republican mass-meeting. The addresses of A. M. Vroom, John Westcott, and Emeric A. Sivens contained good sound reasons why the Germans, who have almost invariably supported the Republican ticket in Chicago, should not desire the election of a Democratic Mayor; and more especially the kind of Democrat that Carter H. Harrison is. The election of Harrison would be a notification to all the world that Chicago approves of the party policy of which he is the exponent, and that the people of Chicago welcome the Southern Confederates as conquerors and rulers.

Having in view the experience of the people of Colorado, whose choice of a representative in Congress was overridden by the Democratic majority, it is but reasonable to expect that a similar outrage will be perpetrated in the case of the Seventh Iowa District, the seat for which is contested by a Democrat, who had an election on his own hook a month after the Iowa Congressmen were all elected. This brilliant Bourbon bases his claim to consideration upon the fact that he received 250 votes in November, and the Democratic House, instead of showing the cheeky pretender out at the door, invited him to stay and continue the contest, the intention doubtless being to seat him at any time when their majority shall be in danger. They did it in the case of Colorado, and are quite equal to doing it in the case of Iowa.

The Army bill proper having been disposed of in the House so far as debate is concerned, the political clauses, improper and irrelevant, have been taken up, and the fight has opened. The contest bids fair to be a protracted one. If the first day's debate gives a sample of what the Democrats have to bring forward in the way of argument in support of their uncleaned-for raid upon wisely-enacted laws, it may well be considered that the purpose is to gain partisan ends rather than to protect the rights and privileges of the voters. Judging from yesterday's Democratic speeches it will only be necessary in the next Presidential campaign for the Republicans to quote liberally from the arguments there used to convince the people at the North that the time has not yet come when the country can be safely intrusted to the care of a party which endeavors to overrule all laws by force of arms when in the minority, and to repeal all just and wholesome statutes the moment it obtains power.

Now appears that the anti-Tilden Democrats of New York and of the Eastern States, in their hunt for a candidate to pit against Sam, have fixed for the present upon ex-Gov. JOHN M. PALMER, of this State. Gov. PALMER is an old-fashioned Democrat of the Southern school. He is a States-Rights, Popular-Sovereignty, strict-construction Democrat of the intensest kind. It is true he went into the War—actually marched troops in upon the sacred soil of a sovereign State,—and by force coerced that sovereign State into submission to the national authority. He was a Union soldier, and a good one; he was also a Republican for a time, and a good one while he lasted. He is a hard-money Democrat of the old Bryan school, and has never taken any stock in paper money. We do not believe, at least we never heard, that he has a bar—*that is, a bar*—of money; and, like Kentuckians generally, he does not use either. If the New Yorkers want an honest man, he

ex-Governor would fill the bill; but if they want a man to circumvent Tilden by ways that are dark, then they had better hunt up somebody else. We are afraid that PALMER's hard-money notions—he not having any money of any kind to pay out for a nomination—will be fatal to him among the softs of Ohio and Indiana, though his State-Sovereignty doctrines ought to command him to the Solid South.

The Bar of Kentucky has been greatly shocked at the murder of Judge ELIZON, and is at some trouble to find words to express its horror and execration of the crime. At a meeting yesterday of the legal profession of Louisville one of the speakers laid the somewhat unusual injunction upon his brethren to strain their invention not, as ordinarily, to devise means of escape for the criminal, but in this instance to secure his punishment; and almost in the same breath the speaker expressed a sense of relief, that the murderer could be accounted for upon the theory of insanity. Bryan's probable line of defense is thus early suggested, though in the present temper of the lawyers and of the people it is doubtful whether the plea of insanity would avail to save his neck if the trial were to take place at once. No fault can be found with the feeling expressed at the Louisville Bar meeting relative to the infliction of swift and severe punishment for a crime so atrocious; it is a sentiment which does credit to the gentlemen of the profession, and the only regret is that they are not oftener inspired by a desire to punish rather than shield assassins and butchers.

DUTY OF REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN.

Now that the Democrats in Congress have fully decided to enter upon the revolutionary programme for which the extra session of Congress was called, it is the duty of Republican Senators and members of the House to contest their progress at every step. This is the ruling sentiment of the Republican caucus, and it should find hearty co-operation from every man who holds a seat in either House of Congress by virtue of Republican public votes.

If the Democrats can be stalled, the work must be done in the House; but the absolute freedom of debate in the Senate, properly improved by the Republican Senators, may be of great encouragement and actual assistance to the House Republicans in their efforts at retarding the Democratic measures. The statement has been made, and not contradicted, that the Greenback members of the House will act and vote with the Republicans in the struggle against the repeal of the laws for the supervision and protection of the Congressional elections. If this shall prove to be the case, the Democrats will have the scant majority of two, including the Speaker, and their control of the House will be as frail as any accident or neglect may complicate their defeat. The caucuses resolution forbidding Republicans to pair with Democrats is, therefore, of the highest importance; and if the Republican members shall strictly follow this rule, it is not unlikely that the Democrats may yet be forced to abandon their scheme of forcing through the proposed repeal of the Election law and the amendment of the army regulations as parts of the appropriation bills.

If it were merely a party question which the Democrats had forced upon the Republicans, the desperate resistance contemplated by the latter might not be justified at this extra session. It could then be argued that the Democrats, being in the majority in both Houses, should be permitted to take such action as should seem best to them; that the Republicans should consent to the passage of the appropriation bills in order to secure an early adjournment; and that an appeal to the country at the next Congressional elections would be the proper course to seek. But it is not a party question, nor even an issue to any temporary policy that may be tried without serious menace to the peace and welfare of the country. The impending Congressional struggle involves (1) the great question of State vs. National Sovereignty which brought on the Civil War, and (2) the purity of elections, and consequently the preservation or the decay of the American elective system. The present Democratic majority in Congress was not chosen by the people as an affirmation of popular approval for the Democratic position on this question, and that majority is so small that it demands from the opposition, as a duty to their constituents and the country, that they shall resist the revolutionary scheme by every means at their command.

If there were merely a question of submitting to the American people the old issue of State Sovereignty; if a safe appeal could be made to the country to decide whether or not the United States as a nation have the right to supervise and regulate the National elections; if there could be a reasonable assurance that the entire people would be allowed to vote freely on such an issue—then, indeed, the Republicans could well afford to give the Democrats all the rope they can and to allow them to proceed with their State-Sovereignty heresies as the quietest way to secure an adjournment. Mr. HANNAH

is supposed to be represented in the several districts by honest and competent men. If the Government has any doubt as to the integrity or the ability of its legal officers, it ought to remove them. Whenever in the current transaction of business the Grand Jury of a district shall find that a crime has been committed and the evidence complete, and shall so find by an indictment of the offender, the trial of that indictment should take place before the Court in the district where the offense is committed. This is a right which the accused has secured to him by the Constitution of the United States, and any attempt by the Government to deprive him of this right would be a violation of the Constitution.

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The administration of the criminal law has, however, undergone a change. Parties indicted in the Federal Courts are no longer tried in the district where the offense is committed. Persons accused of crime, for instance, in the Northern District of Illinois, are no longer required to answer or be tried in this city. The case is taken to Washington, and the accused is under the necessity of employing counsel to defend him, not in the District Court of Illinois, but before some extra-judicial and we may add, extra-constitutional tribunal at Washington. District-Attorneys are no longer engaged to prosecute business before the courts in their States. Their business is to obey instructions from the tribunal at Washington; they are told when to indict, when to discharge, when to acquit, when to convict, when to protest, and when to give the case away. The offenders against the laws of the United States under indictment in Chicago are so numerous that they can afford to keep a cowardly silence on the subject of crimes which not only scandalized the nation but the world.

Mr. HANNAH was a citizen of Chicago during the War of the Rebellion. His legal associates sought to free and let loose upon Chicago the Rebel prisoners confined in Camp Douglas. When the Southern Brigadiers in Congress charged that those prisoners were ill-treated by the Union authorities Mr. HANNAH maintained a silence which was shameful considering that through daily intercourse with them he had the best means of knowing not only that the charge was false, but infamously false. He listened to a gross slander against the humanity of the people he pretended to represent, and was silent; he listened to a gross slander against the army of the Union, and opened not his mouth; he witnessed an attempt to glorify the memory of the Rebel Confederacy at the expense of the Union, and, with a rare exhibition of treachery and cowardice, falsely pretended to be ignorant of the whole subject. We care not what pretense to respectability a man Mr. HANNAH may make. He cannot escape this record.

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LITERATURE.

A Prose Translation of the *Odyssey* by Butcher and Lang.

Lefevre's Philosophy--Spiritual Songs--Life of Dr. Eddy.

Le Conte's Elements of Geology--Brief Notices--Literary Notes.

The Inertia of the Retina--Nationality in France and Germany--Science Notes.

LITERATURE.

THE ODYSSEY IN PROSE.

Butcher and Lang's prose translation of the *Odyssey*, recently published by Macmillan & Co., is an attempt to give "the simple truth about the matter of the poem." The translators have tried to render not all the truth, but the historical truth, of the *Odyssey* into English. They admit that "without the music of verse, only a half truth about Homer can be told." They believe also that there can be no final English translation of the epic. "In each there must be, in addition to what is Greek and eternal, the element of time, of author, personal, and setting. A prose translation can give the movement and the free of a successful translation in verse; it only gathers, as it were, the crumbs which fall from the sister-table, only tells the story without the song. Yet to a prose translation is permitted, perhaps, that close adherence to the archaisms of the epic which in verse become mere oddities." The translators have chosen a somewhat antiquated English prose, the words being, as a rule, such as are found in the King James' version of the Bible. They have endeavored also to preserve the saga elements of the poem, and even to use a poetical prose style, holding that the "Homer's epic are said" to be "not the art of the Northern poets." Mr. Lang is understood, to have brought to the poetical skill and critical knowledge of the poetical language which Mr. Butcher has contributed as his capital in this enterprise a thorough knowledge of the Greek language.

The result of these combined labors is a translation which is neither a translation nor a transcription, nor a parity of style. The epithets of the textual, which are so characteristic of it, and are so difficult to reproduce in poetry, have been brought over with the greatest fidelity, and the restorations have been reduced to a minimum. "Odysseus' rich 'counsel' and Telemachus' 'high-spoken' always appear as such in these pages; whenever they are so described as 'wise' or 'clever' or 'sagacious' it is with a slight loss of the original meaning, and the reader is compelled to introduce the archaisms of the epic which in verse become mere oddities." The translators have chosen a somewhat antiquated English prose, the words being, as a rule, such as are found in the King James' version of the Bible. They have endeavored also to preserve the saga elements of the poem, and even to use a poetical prose style, holding that the "Homer's epic are said" to be "not the art of the Northern poets." Mr. Lang is understood, to have brought to the poetical skill and critical knowledge of the poetical language which Mr. Butcher has contributed as his capital in this enterprise a thorough

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The author's manifest aim is to tap the foundations of "Iliad" and "Odyssey" and to guide where he has opportunity to develop. He approves the statement of Tacitus that Christianity is hostile to all the best interests of the human race, and that it is his way to express his dissatisfaction of its doctrinal principles. Mohammedanism, he thinks, is bad enough, but far better than Christianity. A Western banking-house includes us some time ago, and the author's name is mentioned. The whole book is an argument, and the argument breaks down at last for the want of any facts to sustain the theory defended. This Mr. Le Conte has shown in his introduction, the full meaning of each word is pressed out of it even when as frequently happens, more than one word in English is required for the purpose. Tacitus' statement is made to speak of him in one's training, for and against, and the argument, in the original two words contains the whole of the descriptive phrase.

In this passage, by the way, an odd and somewhat unusual phrase is used to render a term different. As an illustration of the carelessness which crops out at several places, and is the only serious blemish in the translation, we quote:

"Then Telemachus answered him and said: 'Menelaus, son of Atreus, fostering of Zeus, leader of the host, I have come in perchance that mayest thou no longer of my father. My heart is full of devotion, and for the lands to come, and my dwelling is full of foemen, who slay continually my thronging stocks, and my lands are given over to the wiles of the wokers of the woods of my mother, despiteful out of measure.'

Now all the rest, as many as had escaped both war and sea, but Odysseus' son, had for his dwelling a hollow cave, in which he dwelt, longing to be with his mother.

"Clytemnestra, his goddess, held in her hollow cave a better English and a correct translation, though not following so closely the order of the original. It is evident, indeed, that these and other like blunders in the first two or three pages of the original are due to the carelessness of the translator, and that the rest of the words of the Greek, which is for the English reader a matter of no great consequence, and should not, at any rate, be permitted to incumber the translation with obtrusive Hellenism, cannot have crept in later, and that looks their ambition to be faithful in this way.

The translators are at their best in telling the charming story of Nausicaa, and as an illustration of what poetical prose can do toward reproducing the spirit of Homer, we give the following:

"Now come the throned Dawn, and awakened Nausicaa of the fair robes, who straightway ran to tell her parents, her father and her mother. And she found them within, her mother sitting by the hearth, her father leaning on his spear, and among the hairs of some poor slave, but her father she met as he was going forth to the renowned Kings in their council, within the temple of Minerva. And she said to him, 'Dear father, I have to have an audience with you.'

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SPELLING-REFORM.

Ridiculousness of the Present System of English Orthography.

How Some Changes Can Be Made with Equal Ease and Benefit.

An Interesting Lecture by Prof. Edward North, of Hamilton College.

Prof. Edward North, of Hamilton College, lectured before the School Commissioners' and Superintendents' Convention at Ithaca, N. Y., Feb. 18, on "The English Language." In his lecture he presented a striking array of facts and features in the history and structure of the English language, which were framed into a plan for the spelling-reform. In our public schools, he said, the pupils spend more than half, probably two-thirds, of their time in efforts to master the spelling, writing, speaking, and history of the language which they are taught to "imitate with their mother's tongue." After a fashion. The time spent in trying to master the spelling of this vernacular tongue is more than doubled by its conspicuous irregularities and inconsistencies. Written language is one of the practical arts, in which every civilized being is a life-long interest.

It can do no harm to ask if our English language can be brought into obedience to law, and improved so as to be in keeping with the countless other improvements that give glory to the age we live in. If human life has been lengthened, enabled, and sweetened by better methods of traveling, of plowing, sowing, and harvesting of warning and healing our homes, and should human life be not made still longer, and sweeter, and less sorrowful by

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TRUTH IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

